

Mobility bag test case continues

By Master Sgt. **Chris Haug**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

As deployed Airmen reach their halfway point for the current Air Expeditionary Force rotation 5 and 6, Airmen are focusing on not only what it will take to get themselves home, but also what they will need to leave behind.

Just as deployed Airmen from AEF 3/4, Airmen in AEF 5/6 will turn in their mobility bags and chemical warfare equipment to theater materiel managers before redeploying. This equipment will be stored at the three Expeditionary Theater Distribution Centers located at primary hubs in Southwest Asia.

This program began May 9 just in time for Airmen deployed for AEF 3/4 to return home. The goal was to make the deployable Air Force more agile and address concerns of people hand-carrying too many bags into the U.S. Central Command theater, according to Maj. Paulette Jordan, U.S. Central Air Forces chief of supply at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. She was part of the team that launched the program.

Airmen will not turn in weapons, gas masks or individual body armor. Body armor purchased by major commands will be returned; however, armor issued in theater will stay in theater. Airmen will also not turn in their chemical warfare suits

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad Chisholm

Accepting command

Col. Michael Dillard accepts the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group guidon from Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, at the 332nd EMXG change of command ceremony Wednesday. Before arriving at Balad Air Base, Colonel Dillard served as the commander of the 374th Maintenance Group, 374th Airlift Wing, at Yakota Air Base, Japan.

Guiding them in



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Not your regular fuel station



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Getting troops home safely



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From the ground up

Ground liaison team provides Army voice in an Air Force world

By Senior Airman **Shaun Emery**
332nd AEW Public Affairs

With each service playing a key role in Operation Iraqi Freedom, communication is essential. Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's Ground Liaison Office here are serving as translators between the Army and Air Force, ensuring successful close air support missions for troops on the ground.

"We provide an Army voice to Air Force tactical planners," said Sgt. 1st Class Pat McCormack, ground liaison noncommissioned officer. "We brief pilots on the ground commander's intent and explain to them what effect their air power will have."

Sergeant McCormack has been an infantryman for 19 years. His background in ground tactics is useful to helping pilots see the whole picture.

"On the ground we know how troops will be moving, what they'll do in certain situations and what pilots can be prepared for," he said.

Separated by thousands of feet, pilots and ground troops need to have the best situational awareness possible, said Lt. Col. Shawn Ball, ground liaison officer.

"We provide real-time information right up to the point the pilot takes off. If

we don't give the pilots that information, there is a greater opportunity for fratricide," he said.

While the close air support missions are a large part of what the GLO office does, it is not the only way they help bridge the gap between the Army and the Air Force.

They act as special staff for the 332nd AEW commander, assisting the wing staff during any joint operations. They are also available to any Air Force member who has questions concerning the Army.

"Our goal is to be effective in any aspect of joint operations with the Air Force," said Sergeant McCormack. "If you have a question, just ask us. We'll hunt down the information for you."

According to Lt. Col. Brian Brurud, an F-16 pilot with the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, the information the GLO provides is essential to making the relationship between pilots and ground commanders run smoothly.

Colonel Brurud also said the GLO here in Balad has gone above and beyond to make sure of that.

"Their aggressive contribution has been essential," he said. "We are in a dynamic environment that is pretty demanding. They have risen to the occasion and gotten us that near real-time information that has helped make our missions successful."

Fire safety tips

As wing members face the summer heat and the possible problems it may cause, the fire safety office offers the following tips:

Electrical Outlets:

- Must have covers
- No bare wiring is showing
- Avoid electrical outlet overload

Extension Cords:

- Extension cords are for temporary use only
- Do not "daisy chain" electrical strips

- Plug major appliances (refrigerator, microwave) directly into wall outlets
- Inspect extension cords for rips, tears and splicing
- No extension cords in walking paths or under rugs

For questions concerning fire safety, contact the fire and emergency services flight at 443-6402.

BALAD AIR BASE UNIFORM TIPS

While wearing the Kevlar helmet, Airmen must ensure the chin strap is securely fastened.



Right



Wrong